TOW LAW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICES,
TOW LAW,
CO. DURHAM.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950

AREA OF THE URBAN DISTRICT 477 acres.

POPULATION MID 1950 3,220

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT 31/12/50 965

RATEABLE VALUE £9,676

PRODUCT OF 1D RATE £34

OFFICIALS

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. A. Charlton, Grove Lodge, Tow Law.
(Part time - temporary basis)

Sanitary Inspector - Vacant

Tuberculosis Medical Officer; Venereal Diseases Medical Officer, School Medical Officer; Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer; Obstetric Consultants; Vetinary Surgeon; Public Analyst; Health Visitor; Maternity Nurse; etc., are under Durham County Council.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Employment has remained good during the year. Coal Mining remains active, although it is a pity that this employment is chiefly available at collieries outside the Urban District. Female labour is absorbed at Clothing factories in Crook, some 4 miles away, and West Auckland, some 10 miles distant, with the disadvantages associated with transport.

A small factory for female workers would be beneficial to the town.

Further employment is afforded on a small scale by four small engineering projects, as well as by the usual general activities of a small town.

In my opinion, a need exists for the establishment of industry other than mining, to absorb labour which is tending to be dispersed at a distance from the Urban Area and in addition to afford inducement for the younger members of the community to remain in the area.

This trend to disperse would appear to be progressive and is likely to become worse if mining in thin seams ceases.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	21	31
	Illegitimate	2	1
		23	32

Total 55

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population 17.0

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 - England and Wales 15.8

Still Births Total 1

	Male	Female
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population 0.31

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population (England & Wales) 0.37

DEATHS

Death in infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Total 1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births - Resident Population 18.0

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 England and Wales 29.8

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age Total 1

	Male	Female
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

DEATH RATE	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	39	23	62
Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population	19,2		
Death Rate per 1,000 Population England and Wales	11.6		

Deaths from Subjoined Causes	Male	Female
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung)	1	-
" " (Breast)	-	2
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	3
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	5	4
Angina	3	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	..
Other Heart Disease	9	6
Other Circulatory Disease	4	1
Influenza	3	-
Pneumonia	2	-
Bronchitis	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1
Accidents	1	-
Suicide	-	1

Deaths from Diphtheria -	Nil
" " Whooping Cough	Nil
" " Measles	Nil
" " Pregnancy Childbirth, Abortion	Nil

Cases of Infectious Disease Admitted to Hospital

Scarlet Fever	20
Houses disinfected	20

TUBERCULOSIS

Primary Notifications

	Male	Female
Pulmonary	-	2
Non Pulmonary	1	-

Transfer to Urban Area

Pulmonary	-	1
Non Pulmonary	-	-

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations of Sputum, Throat Swabs and Blood for the diagnosis of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever are carried out at the Government Public Health Laboratories, Ponteland Road, Newcastle on Tyne. Facilities also exist for any other laboratory investigation.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES - NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Satisfactory

AMBULANCE CONTROL

Bishop Auckland - Telephone 810

NURSING IN THE HOME

General Nursing is carried out by a Nurse resident in Tow Law. Maternity Nursing is catered for by a resident midwife.

TREATMENT CENTRES

A Child Welfare and Maternity Centre operates in Tow Law at fortnightly intervals.

A Venereal Disease Clinic at Durham County Hospital and a Tuberculosis Clinic at Bp. Auckland, under the auspices of the Durham County Council, provide adequate facilities for those diseases.

GENERAL HOSPITAL FACILITIES

General Hospital facilities exist at Newcastle on Tyne, Durham and Bp. Auckland. Certain eye cases are treated at the Sunderland Eye Infirmary.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Durham County Council control Record System, and issue a pamphlet to parents regarding vaccination against Smallpox when a child attains the age of three months.

To draw attention to need for immunisation against Diphtheria, leaflets are sent by post at 8 months and 12 months, and to encourage reinforcing dosage at the age of 4 years 9 months.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Under 5 years	20
5 to 15 years	1
Booster doses	3

DOMESTIC HELPSERVICE

Arranged by Durham County Council with the co-operation of Health Visitors.

A scale of charges has been formulated and the amount payable is assessed according to the income of the family concerned.

Assistance is provided for aged persons, Maternity Cases and where domestic distress makes outside assistance necessary.

The duties of Domestic Helps relates to the purely domestic work of the household, they do not undertake any nursing and provide their own food.

WATER SUPPLY

All houses in the area are provided with a piped supply.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action required.

SLAUGHTERING IN THE DISTRICT - Nil

BAKEHOUSES Clean - Satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE 1950 (SCHEME SUBMITTED 1949)

The Council have had prepared for them by Messrs. Balfours and Sons, Civil Engineers, Newcastle on Tyne, a new scheme. This has been submitted to the Ministry and accepted in principle. It is proposed to carry out the scheme in stages over a period of 5 to 10 years.

The existing Disposal Works are adequate for the time being, but arescheduled for improvement.

It is anticipated that Privy Conversions will be carried out as each part of the scheme is completed.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Council have acquired land for refuse disposal and all tips are controlled.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ORDER

A Rodent Officer is employed and the destruction of rats and mice is proceeding satisfactorily.

MILK No action taken.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during 1950	-	24
" " " " tenanted " "	-	24

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total Number in District	
Water Closets	235
Ash Closets	610
Ashpit privies	Nil

Ash Privies converted into water closets - 4
Ash Closets converted into water closets - Nil

WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS

Seizure of Unwholsesome Food .....Nil

Public Health Acts

Inspections etc., Structural Defects

Properties Inspected	Informal Written Notices	Formal Notices By Order	No. of nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling houses & Schools			
Foul Conditions	-	-	-
Structural defects.....	32	-	30
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Dairies & Milkshops.....	-	-	-
Cowsheds	-	-	-
Ashpits and Privies	24	-	24
Defective Yard Paving.....	-	-	-
Housing Drainage			
Defective Traps	-	-	-
No. of disconnections.....	-	-	-
from sewers	-		
Other faults.....	6	-	6
Pigsties	-	-	-
Other Nuisances			
Slag Dust	1	1	1
Totals.....	63	1	61

I am,
Your most obedient Servant,

A. CHARLTON

M.B., B.S.

19th March, 1952